Docket No.: A-282

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with $/\!\!/$ sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

Date: January 8, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

Wolfgang Matthes et al.

Applic. No.

09/848,583

Filed Title

May 3, 2001 Cutting Device And Method For Trimming

Examiner

Jason D. Prone

Art Unit: 3724

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JAN 1 5 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 83700

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 10, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, applicants elect group I, claims 1-10, 12 and 13, for prosecution at this time.

Applicants request a rejoinder under MPEP §821.04.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 1-10. 12 and 13 is solicited?

Respectfully submitted.

MARKUS NOLFF REG. NO. 37,006

For Applicants

Date: January 8, 2003;

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.

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